

# Major Work Stoppages

## Technical Note

**M**ajor work stoppages are those involving 1,000 workers or more and lasting a full shift or longer, and include worker-initiated strikes, as well as lockouts by employers. A strike is defined as a temporary stoppage of work by a group of workers (not necessarily members of a union) to express a grievance or enforce a demand. A lockout is a temporary withholding or denial of employment during a labor dispute to enforce terms of employment upon a group of employees. Because of the complexity of disputes, the Bureau does not attempt to distinguish between strikes and lockouts in its statistics; both are included in the term "work stoppages."

Data for the number of workers involved and days idle include all workers made idle for one shift or longer in establishments directly involved in a stoppage. They do not account for secondary idleness as a result of material or service shortages in other establishments. The number of workers idled in any stoppage represents the maximum number of workers idled during the reference period for that stoppage.

In the monthly tables, days idle during the reference period for any one stoppage is calculated by adding the number of days lost by each affected worker during the month from the beginning date through the ending date of the stoppage. In addition, days idle is shown as a total for all stoppages in effect during the month.

In the historical table, cumulative figures for days idle for

the year or year-to-date are shown for various reference periods. Total days idle is the sum of the days idle for all stoppages in effect during the reference period. In addition, days idle is shown as a percent of estimated working time for all stoppages that occurred during the reference period. Estimated working time is computed by multiplying average total employment during the reference period by the number of days typically worked by most employees during that period. (Total employment excludes private households, forestry, and fishery employees, and is taken from *Employment and Earnings* published by the Office of Employment and Unemployment Statistics.) Days idle as a percent of estimated working time lost is calculated by dividing the total days idle for all stoppages occurring during the reference period by the estimated working time for all employees in the economy during that period.

### Additional information

For more detailed data, contact Work Stoppages, Division of Compensation Data Analysis and Planning, Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2 Massachusetts Ave. NE., Room 4175, Washington, DC 20212-0001.

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TABLE D-1. **Work stoppages involving 1,000 workers or more, 1947-2002**

| Period     | Number of stoppages |                         | Workers involved <sup>1</sup>   |                                     | Days idle <sup>2</sup> |  |
|------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|--|
|            | Beginning in period | In effect during period | Beginning in period (thousands) | In effect during period (thousands) | Number (thousands)     | Percent of estimated working time <sup>3</sup> |
| 1947 ..... | 270                 | —                       | 1,629                           | —                                   | 25,720                 | ( <sup>4</sup> )                               |
| 1948 ..... | 245                 | —                       | 1,435                           | —                                   | 26,127                 | 0.22   |
| 1949 ..... | 262                 | —                       | 2,537                           | —                                   | 43,420                 | .38  |
| 1950 ..... | 424                 | —                       | 1,698                           | —                                   | 30,390                 | .26  |
| 1951 ..... | 415                 | —                       | 1,462                           | —                                   | 15,070                 | .12  |
| 1952 ..... | 470                 | —                       | 2,746                           | —                                   | 48,820                 | .38  |
| 1953 ..... | 437                 | —                       | 1,623                           | —                                   | 18,130                 | .14  |
| 1954 ..... | 265                 | —                       | 1,075                           | —                                   | 16,630                 | .13  |
| 1955 ..... | 363                 | —                       | 2,055                           | —                                   | 21,180                 | .16  |
| 1956 ..... | 287                 | —                       | 1,370                           | —                                   | 26,840                 | .20  |
| 1957 ..... | 279                 | —                       | 887                             | —                                   | 10,340                 | .07  |
| 1958 ..... | 332                 | —                       | 1,587                           | —                                   | 17,900                 | .13  |
| 1959 ..... | 245                 | —                       | 1,381                           | —                                   | 60,850                 | .43  |
| 1960 ..... | 222                 | —                       | 896                             | —                                   | 13,260                 | .09  |
| 1961 ..... | 195                 | —                       | 1,031                           | —                                   | 10,140                 | .07  |
| 1962 ..... | 211                 | —                       | 793                             | —                                   | 11,760                 | .08  |
| 1963 ..... | 181                 | —                       | 512                             | —                                   | 10,020                 | .07  |
| 1964 ..... | 246                 | —                       | 1,183                           | —                                   | 16,220                 | .11  |
| 1965 ..... | 268                 | —                       | 999                             | —                                   | 15,140                 | .10  |
| 1966 ..... | 321                 | —                       | 1,300                           | —                                   | 16,000                 | .10  |
| 1967 ..... | 381                 | —                       | 2,192                           | —                                   | 31,320                 | .18  |
| 1968 ..... | 392                 | —                       | 1,855                           | —                                   | 35,367                 | .20  |
| 1969 ..... | 412                 | —                       | 1,576                           | —                                   | 29,397                 | .16  |
| 1970 ..... | 381                 | —                       | 2,468                           | —                                   | 52,761                 | .29  |
| 1971 ..... | 298                 | —                       | 2,516                           | —                                   | 35,538                 | .19  |
| 1972 ..... | 250                 | —                       | 975                             | —                                   | 16,764                 | .09  |
| 1973 ..... | 317                 | —                       | 1,400                           | —                                   | 16,260                 | .08  |
| 1974 ..... | 424                 | —                       | 1,796                           | —                                   | 31,809                 | .16  |
| 1975 ..... | 235                 | —                       | 965                             | —                                   | 17,563                 | .09  |
| 1976 ..... | 231                 | —                       | 1,519                           | —                                   | 23,962                 | .12  |
| 1977 ..... | 298                 | —                       | 1,212                           | —                                   | 21,258                 | .10  |
| 1978 ..... | 219                 | —                       | 1,006                           | —                                   | 23,774                 | .11  |
| 1979 ..... | 235                 | —                       | 1,021                           | —                                   | 20,409                 | .09  |
| 1980 ..... | 187                 | —                       | 795                             | —                                   | 20,844                 | .09  |
| 1981 ..... | 145                 | —                       | 729                             | —                                   | 16,908                 | .07  |
| 1982 ..... | 96                  | —                       | 656                             | —                                   | 9,061                  | .04  |
| 1983 ..... | 81                  | —                       | 909                             | —                                   | 17,461                 | .08  |
| 1984 ..... | 62                  | —                       | 376                             | —                                   | 8,499                  | .04  |
| 1985 ..... | 54                  | —                       | 324                             | —                                   | 7,079                  | .03  |
| 1986 ..... | 69                  | —                       | 533                             | —                                   | 11,861                 | .05  |
| 1987 ..... | 46                  | —                       | 174                             | —                                   | 4,481                  | .02  |
| 1988 ..... | 40                  | —                       | 118                             | —                                   | 4,381                  | .02  |
| 1989 ..... | 51                  | —                       | 452                             | —                                   | 16,996                 | .07  |
| 1990 ..... | 44                  | —                       | 185                             | —                                   | 5,926                  | .02  |
| 1991 ..... | 40                  | —                       | 392                             | —                                   | 4,584                  | .02  |
| 1992 ..... | 35                  | —                       | 364                             | —                                   | 3,989                  | .01  |
| 1993 ..... | 35                  | —                       | 182                             | —                                   | 3,981                  | .01  |
| 1994 ..... | 45                  | —                       | 322                             | —                                   | 5,021                  | .02  |
| 1995 ..... | 31                  | —                       | 192                             | —                                   | 5,771                  | .02  |
| 1996 ..... | 37                  | —                       | 273                             | —                                   | 4,889                  | .02  |
| 1997 ..... | 29                  | —                       | 339                             | —                                   | 4,497                  | .01  |
| 1998 ..... | 34                  | —                       | 387                             | —                                   | 5,116                  | .02  |

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE D-1. **Work stoppages involving 1,000 workers or more, 1947-2002**—Continued

| Period                  | Number of stoppages |                         | Workers involved <sup>1</sup>   |                                     | Days idle <sup>2</sup> |  |
|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|--|
|                         | Beginning in period | In effect during period | Beginning in period (thousands) | In effect during period (thousands) | Number (thousands)     | Percent of estimated working time <sup>3</sup> |
| 1999 .....              | 17                  | —                       | 73                              | —                                   | 1,996                  | 0.01   |
| 2000 .....              | 39                  | —                       | 394                             | —                                   | 20,419                 | .06  |
| 2001 .....              | 29                  | 30                      | 99.1                            | 101.8                               | 1,151.3                | ( <sup>5</sup> )                               |
| January .....           | 1                   | 2                       | 2.0                             | 4.7                                 | 37.1                   | ( <sup>5</sup> )                               |
| February .....          | 1                   | 1                       | 1.2                             | 1.2                                 | 3.6                    | ( <sup>5</sup> )                               |
| March .....             | 3                   | 4                       | 7.8                             | 9.0                                 | 33.4                   | ( <sup>5</sup> )                               |
| April .....             | 4                   | 5                       | 19.4                            | 20.7                                | 230.5                  | .01  |
| May .....               | 7                   | 8                       | 22.1                            | 23.4                                | 201.6                  | .01  |
| June .....              | 3                   | 5                       | 4.7                             | 9.0                                 | 73.2                   | ( <sup>5</sup> )                               |
| July .....              | 2                   | 3                       | 2.2                             | 3.3                                 | 62.1                   | ( <sup>5</sup> )                               |
| August .....            | 3                   | 4                       | 5.8                             | 6.9                                 | 71.5                   | ( <sup>5</sup> )                               |
| September .....         | 2                   | 3                       | 3.0                             | 4.1                                 | 55.7                   | ( <sup>5</sup> )                               |
| October .....           | 1                   | 4                       | 24.9                            | 29.0                                | 316.4                  | .01  |
| November .....          | 0                   | 1                       | 0                               | 1.6                                 | 11.2                   | ( <sup>5</sup> )                               |
| December .....          | 2                   | 2                       | 6.0                             | 6.0                                 | 55.0                   | ( <sup>5</sup> )                               |
| 2002 <sup>P</sup> ..... | 11                  | 12                      | 21.8                            | 22.8                                | 382.4                  | ( <sup>5</sup> )                               |
| January .....           | 0                   | 1                       | 0                               | 1.0                                 | 21.0                   | ( <sup>5</sup> )                               |
| February .....          | 1                   | 2                       | 1.5                             | 2.5                                 | 9.0                    | ( <sup>5</sup> )                               |
| March .....             | 1                   | 1                       | 2.9                             | 2.9                                 | 43.5                   | ( <sup>5</sup> )                               |
| April .....             | 2                   | 3                       | 4.1                             | 7.0                                 | 80.7                   | ( <sup>5</sup> )                               |
| May .....               | 3                   | 5                       | 5.1                             | 9.2                                 | 138.2                  | ( <sup>5</sup> )                               |
| June .....              | 1                   | 3                       | 1.5                             | 5.3                                 | 36.0                   | ( <sup>5</sup> )                               |
| July .....              | 3                   | 4                       | 6.7                             | 8.2                                 | 54.0                   | ( <sup>5</sup> )                               |

<sup>1</sup> Workers are counted more than once if they are involved in more than one stoppage during the reference period.

<sup>2</sup> Days idle includes all stoppages in effect during the reference period.

<sup>3</sup> Agricultural and government employees are included in the calculation of estimated working time; private households, forestry, and

fishery employees are excluded.

<sup>4</sup> Data not available.

<sup>5</sup> Less than .005.

P = preliminary data.

NOTE: Dash indicates no data for this category.

TABLE D-2. **Work stoppages involving 1,000 workers or more, May 2002<sup>P</sup>**

| Organizations involved<br>and location <sup>1</sup>   | Industry<br>code <sup>2</sup> | Beginning<br>date | Ending<br>date | Number of<br>workers <sup>3</sup> | Days idle |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Group Health Incorporated<br>New York, NY<br>Office and Professional Employees .....                          | 622110                        | 4/16/02           | 5/17/02        | 1,300                             | 16,900    |
| Hershey Foods Corporation<br>Hershey, PA<br>Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers<br>and Grain Millers ..... | 311330                        | 4/26/02           |                | 2,800                             | 61,600    |
| Connecticut Construction Industry<br>Association<br>Hartford, CT<br>Carpenters (Ind.) .....                   | 234110                        | 5/1/02            | 5/14/02        | 3,000                             | 30,000    |
| Twin Cities Roofing Contractors Association<br>Minneapolis, MN<br>Roofers .....                               | 235610                        | 5/1/02            |                | 1,000                             | 22,000    |
| Carrier Corporation<br>Indianapolis, IN<br>Steelworkers .....   | 333415                        | 5/3/02            | 5/13/02        | 1,100                             | 7,700     |
| Stoppages beginning in month: 3 .....   |                               |                   |                | 5,100                             |           |
| Stoppages in effect in month: 5 .....   |                               |                   |                | 9,200                             | 138,200   |

<sup>1</sup> Labor organizations are affiliated with the AFL-CIO except where noted as Independent (Ind.).

<sup>2</sup> Industry code is from the 1997 NAICS (North American Industry Classification System).

<sup>3</sup> The number of workers involved is rounded to the nearest 100.

p = Preliminary data.

TABLE D-3. **Work stoppages involving 1,000 workers or more, June 2002<sup>p</sup>**

| Organizations involved<br>and location <sup>1</sup>   | Industry<br>code <sup>2</sup> | Beginning<br>date | Ending<br>date | Number of<br>workers <sup>3</sup> | Days idle |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Hershey Foods Corporation<br>Hershey, PA<br>Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers<br>and Grain Millers ..... | 311330                        | 4/26/02           | 6/8/02         | 2,800                             | 14,000    |
| Twin Cities Roofing Contractors Association<br>Minneapolis, MN<br>Roofers .....                               | 235610                        | 5/1/02            | 6/11/02        | 1,000                             | 7,000     |
| Queens bus lines (3)<br>Queens, NY<br>Transport Workers .....   | 485113                        | 6/17/02           |                | 1,500                             | 15,000    |
| Stoppages beginning in month: 1 .....   |                               |                   |                | 1,500                             |           |
| Stoppages in effect in month: 3 .....   |                               |                   |                | 5,300                             | 36,000    |

<sup>1</sup> Labor organizations are affiliated with the AFL-CIO except where noted as Independent (Ind.).

<sup>2</sup> Industry code is from the 1997 NAICS (North American Industry Classification System).

<sup>3</sup> The number of workers involved is rounded to the nearest 100.

p = Preliminary data.

TABLE D-4. **Work stoppages involving 1,000 workers or more, July 2002<sup>p</sup>**

| Organizations involved<br>and location <sup>1</sup>                                     | Industry<br>code <sup>2</sup> | Beginning<br>date | Ending<br>date | Number of<br>workers <sup>3</sup> | Days idle |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Queens bus lines (3)<br>Queens, NY<br>Transport Workers .....                           | 485113                        | 6/17/02           |                | 1,500                             | 33,000    |
| Mechanical Contractors Association of New<br>York<br>New York, NY<br>Steamfitters ..... | 235110                        | 7/1/02            | 7/5/02         | 1,700                             | 6,800     |
| Cook County<br>Chicago, IL<br>State, County, and Municipal Employees                    | 922110                        | 7/11/02           | 7/11/02        | 3,800                             | 3,800     |
| Delta Dental<br>Northern CA<br>Teamsters .....  | 524114                        | 7/19/02           |                | 1,200                             | 10,800    |
| Stoppages beginning in month: 3 .....   |                               |                   |                | 6,700                             |           |
| Stoppages in effect in month: 4 .....   |                               |                   |                | 8,200                             | 54,000    |

<sup>1</sup> Labor organizations are affiliated with the AFL-CIO except where noted as Independent (Ind.).

<sup>2</sup> Industry code is from the 1997 NAICS (North American Industry Classification System).

<sup>3</sup> The number of workers involved is rounded to the nearest 100.

p = Preliminary data.